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Press release

Mildest autumn since 1978

4 December 2001

England and Wales have had the mildest autumn in 23 years, Met Office figures revealed this week.

In its monthly seasonal assessment, the Met Office found that since September the country has experienced very warm weather - with average temperatures of 11.4 °C - but it was also wet with a total rainfall of 280 mm compared to the average of 252 mm.

October was particularly unseasonable with average temperatures of 13.3 °C, reaching a maximum of 25 °C in some parts of the south-east on the 13th, making it the warmest October since records began in 1659. It was also a wet month, with 90 mm of rain falling in Cambridge on the 21st, causing severe flooding in the area.

In contrast this November was the driest since 1989, especially in the south-east, but there was snow in Bedfordshire on November 9, the earliest recorded snowfall in southern England since 1980.

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